

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed is a method and system for controlling access to a television set using a remote control unit having a finger verification means. The method includes the steps of: placing at least one finger on the remote control unit for scanning; obtaining fingerprint data indicative of the scanned finger; comparing the fingerprint data to predetermined reference data to establish a fingerprint match; and, if a match is established, providing access to a number of channels associated with the scanned finger. The system includes a fingerprint reader for generating fingerprint data; a processor programmed to prompt the user to enter fingerprint data; and, a fingerprint recognition means for verifying that the user is an authorized user of the remote control apparatus.